

Remarks

Claims 1 to 25 are pending in the application. No claims are amended.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1, 14 and 21 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1 and 2 of co-pending Application No. 10/161,800. The rejection is provisional since the conflicting claims have not yet been patented.

To overcome the provisional double patenting rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) accompanies this Response. Accordingly, claims 1, 14, and 21 are now believed to be in allowable condition, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the double patenting rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-13, 15-20 and 22-25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claims 1, 14, and 21, respectively), but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As set forth above, the double patenting rejection of claims 1, 14, and 21 has been overcome with the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer, and claims 1, 14 and 21 are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, claims 2-13, 15-20 and 22-25 are also in allowable condition. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

If it would in any way facilitate the allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the below signed attorney at the phone number provided.

Allowance of claims 1-25 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FEB 5, 2004

Date

By:



Matthew B. McNutt, Reg. No.: 39,766
Telephone No.: (512) 984-6891

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833